THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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DNR Reports . . . by Glenn Therres

Mute Swans, or more accurately their control, have been in the news a lot this year. In April, DNR finalized our Mute Swan Management Plan. The goal is to manage the Mute Swan population in Maryland at a level that (1) minimizes impacts to Maryland's native species and habitats; (2) is consistent with the objectives of the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement; and (3) minimizes conflicts with humans. Management is to be conducted in an effective, efficient manner, consistent with accepted wildlife management practices.

In April, a reduction of the Mute Swan population through lethal methods (addling eggs and shooting adults) was initiated in accordance with a permit issued to DNR by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (In December 2001, a federal court ruled that Mute Swans were protected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act; thus the need for a federal permit.) In June, the federal government was sued over the issuance of the permit and the case is in court. DNR ceased lethal control. Stay tuned!

For the present, DNR continues to study and document the problems associated with this exotic species. One such issue is the impact of Mute Swans on submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). SAV or "bay grasses" have long been recognized as critical to the health and well-being of myriad Chesapeake Bay organisms. Not only does SAV protect water quality and prevent erosion, it also provides food and shelter for fish, shellfish, invertebrates and waterfowl. Today, however, remaining SAV beds are about only 10 percent of historic levels. Although most of the SAV decline has been attributed to elevated levels of nutrients and sedimentation, shoreline property owners and resource managers are increasingly troubled by the Mute Swan population's impact on SAV.

DNR's effort to control Mute Swan populations is being challenged in the courts. Meantime, birders can help track neck-collared birds.

Mute Swans feed extensively on SAV such as widgeon grass and eelgrass. Each bird consumes about eight pounds of SAV each day, accounting for about 10.5 million pounds of valuable bay grasses each year. Moreover, the

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Chapter Chatter by Martha Waugh

Baltimore Bird Club (BBC) Member Honored. Jim Peters was named recipient of the first annual George B. Hartzog, Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service by the National Park Service (NPS). Jim won the award for his remarkable restoration and maintenance of Fort McHenry's 10-acre mitigated tidal wetland. Vince Vaise, Fort McHenry's Volunteer-in-Parks coordinator and BBC member, nominated Jim for this honor. Mr. Hartzog, a former director of the NPS, created the Volunteer-in-Parks program to honor the best volunteers throughout the agency.

Several years ago the National Aquarium asked Joy Wheeler of the BBC if she knew of anyone who might be interested in a wetland project at Fort McHenry. Joy presented the idea to Jim, who accepted the challenge. With enormous enthusiasm, Jim has worked six days a week for the past five years at the Fort. Working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jim, along with licensed bird banders Barbara Ross of the BBC and Sharon Schwimmer of the Carroll County Bird Club, run a bird monitoring and banding station in the marsh.

Building on his experience as a science teacher, Jim has developed a curriculum-based education program that, refined by the National Aquarium Education Department, is now being used to teach students about wetland ecology. Over the years Jim has constructed a nature trail, feeding stations, numerous Tree Swallow, Kestrel, and Purple Martin boxes, and cement stairs to an overlook. He has planned and secured hundreds of donated plants, including native species, to be planted in the wetland. Through his efforts this area is serving as a model for other wetland restoration projects in the Chesapeake Bay. To quote the award nomination, "At 73, Jim Peters has the enthusiasm and fortitude of someone half his age and truly exemplifies the spirit and principles of the National Park Service Volunteer."

Washington Chapter Member Remembers MOS. Genevieve Beck, a charter member of the Washington County Chapter, died July 16, 2003, at the age of 90. In her will, Genevieve remembered both her local chapter and MOS, with a bequest of $500 to each organization.

Genevieve was born in Chambersburg, PA, but lived most of her life in Hagerstown, where she taught in the county schools. She was an avid birder whose first love was hawks. She participated for many years in the fall hawk watches and data collection. She was a member of the Hawk Migration Association of North America, the National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, the Nature Conservancy, and MOS. Her

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2004 Scholarship Program

In case you missed the article in the September-October Yellowthroat, this is just a reminder that MOS sponsors about ten or twelve scholarships each year to Audubon Camps. This year they are available in Maine and Wisconsin. The Maine camps are Field Ornithology, Natural History of the Maine Coast, and Workshop for Educators. The Wisconsin camp is called Wade into Ecology. Each award is valued at between $600 and $900 and covers tuition, and room and board for six days at an ecology or ornithology workshop at the above locations.

Candidates should be teachers, park rangers, naturalists, community volunteers, or environmental educators. A major criterion is that the winner should be in a position to pass on knowledge gained to young people. All applicants should be at least 18 years of age and submit a letter of intent, a current resume, and two letters of recommendation, one of which should be from an MOS member or chapter.

Information is available on the MOS website,www.mdbirds.org. Go to "activities" and click on "scholarships." For further information, please contact your local MOS chapter president, chapter scholarship representative, or me at 410-452-8539; ffryjl@aol.com; 1202 Ridge Road, Pylesville, MD 21132.

Deadline for receipt of applications is January 31, 2004.

—Jean Fry, Scholarship Chairperson

The Maryland Yellowthroat
Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

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Please send all items for January/February issue to Lydia Schindler by December 1

The Youth Birding Club Says Thanks

I would like to thank the Maryland Ornithological Society and Conference Committee for their recent donation to the Audubon Naturalist Society's Youth Birding Club. The funds raised from the silent auction and raffle will be used to the help the kids explore new areas, provide more learning opportunities for the kids, and purchase supplies such as binoculars to help more kids become involved in the club. Matt Barr, Anna Boynton, and Andy Pertierra, the club members who attended the 2003 conference, each told me what a great time they had at the conference and how they enjoyed meeting MOS members and guests. The amount of support MOS has shown for the Youth Birding Club has been simply amazing!

The Youth Birding Club is now finishing its first year. Montgomery County Chapter members Rick Sussman, Cyndie Loeper, Gemma Radko, and Don Simonson have been particularly helpful in organizing the field trips and passing on their knowledge and skills to all the kids involved. The club has been as much fun for adults as it has for the kids!

In the next few months we hope to learn about Saw-whet Owl banding, participate in the Washington, D.C. Christmas Count again, work on our waterfowl ID skills, and just enjoy looking for and learning about birds!

We are still looking for more kids interested in birding. If you know of any young birders between the ages of 10 and 17, please have them contact me by email at david@audubonnaturalist.org or at 301-652-9188 ext. 37.

—David Farner, ANS Senior Staff Naturalist

CHAPTER CHATTER

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frail health in the last several years prevented Genevieve from attending chapter functions, but as recently as two years ago she submitted feeder counts to the Washington County Christmas Bird Count.

Love Birds Sighted in Talbot Bird Club. Alert Talbot Bird Club members detected some courting activity but even so, they were surprised when their two newly elected officers tied the knot and disappeared on a honeymoon. Mark Scallion and Susanna Engvall were married on August 30, 2003, at Christ Church in Easton. Mark is the new president of the Talbot Chapter and Susanna the secretary. The two met while they were both interns at Pickering Creek Audubon Center. While working at Pickering and teaching other young people about birds and the environment, they both became fascinated with birds. Their love of birding grew when they began to attend Talbot MOS bird walks led by folks like Les Roslund, Wayne Bell, and Jan Reese.

Both of the Scallions work for environmental nonprofit organizations. Susanna is a fund raiser for Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage (CWH), an organization that provides habitat restoration services to landowners; CWH installs warm-season grass meadows, shallow water wetlands, nesting structures, and a host of other arrangements beneficial to wildlife at sites throughout the Eastern Shore. Mark is the Center Director for Pickering Creek Audubon Center; this National Audubon Society education center teaches more than 16,000 citizens a year about science and the outdoors. Both Mark and Susanna encourage you to stop by to join them for a Sunday walk in Talbot County (7 a.m. on November 9, 23, and 30; get directions from Mark at mscallion@pickeringcreek.org).

Anne Arundel Birders Check Out the North Country. Al Haury, Dottie Mumford, Paul Speyser, Wafi Rains, Bobbi Reichwein, and Kathie and Gladys Lambert toured the state of Maine from May 31 through June 7, 2003. Herb Wilson, ornithologist and head of the Biology Department of Colby College in Waterville, Maine, planned and led the trip. Despite a couple of days of rain, the group managed to see 151 species. The tour's first stop was at the Laudholm Farm in Wells, Maine, where they saw abundant Yellow and Chestnut-sided Warblers and American Redstarts, plus Eastern Bluebirds, Bobolinks, Song Sparrows, Common Yellowthroats, Eastern Towhees, Eastern Kingbirds, Eastern Phoebes, Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows, Chimney Swifts, Veeries, and one Canada Warbler. At the beach they were able to compare a Roseate Tern with the Arctic Tern standing next to it. Al says, "It was a real treat to see and hear a good number of Piping Plovers calling and running around on the beach. These plovers nest in protective enclosures on the sand dunes above this beach."

The next day the Marylanders visited Biddeford and Scarborough Marsh in the rain. And, with the rain following them, they admired Pemaquic Point and its lighthouse. In

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CHAPTER CHATTER

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Waterville, they toured the Perkins Arboretum on the Colby College campus, where they had great views of a Barred Owl. In the higher elevations of the Flagstaff Lake region they found 60 species, including 16 warbler species, Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Common Nighthawk, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Broad-winged Hawk. Their best find was several Boreal Chickadees.

They sailed to Machias Seal Island, where they took advantage of the blinds to observe large numbers of Atlantic Puffin and Arctic Tern. The group spent two days in the Acadia National Park and Wonderland areas. According to Al, "The highlight was stopping at the well-known Peregrine Falcon nest in the park. The area was closed off because the Peregrine parents had produced four young this year. Using scopes from the parking area below the nest, we saw all four of the young, two of them feeding on prey. The little guys were fully feathered and just about ready to leave home." A whale-watching trip brought 48 species, including Common Eider, Black Guillemot, Red-breasted Merganser, and Common and Arctic Tern.

On the last day in Maine they spotted a Baltimore Oriole at Capisic Pond. Investigating, they found an oriole nest under construction attached to a branch not more than six feet above the ground.

North Country Moose Checks Out a Carroll Chapter Couple. Marc and Tammy Schwaab also went to Maine the last week of July for a 10-day vacation. They spent half the trip on the coast and half in the north woods, plus a day trip to Campobello Island in New Brunswick, Canada. A scheduling problem meant they weren't there at a good time for hearing or spotting breeding birds. The Schwaab highlight list included Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Red-necked Phalarope, Atlantic Puffin, Black Guillemot, Arctic Tern, Roseate Tern, Common Eider (with young), and Sooty Shearwater. They also recorded a number of mammals: harbor seals, five humpback whales, harbor porpoises and eight moose. At Baxter State Park, Tammy reports, "We had a close encounter of the moose kind when a cow walked right up behind us!" After her initial shock, the intrepid birder managed to get some great moose photographs up close and personal.

Howard Bird Club Members Go Birding and See a Jaguar. Jane and Dennis Coskren, Doug Forsell, and Peter Osenton joined a group on a 2-week visit to Peru. The itinerary took them from the desert coast and offshore islands across the Andes to the rain forest of the Amazon basin. It was almost as if they saw three different countries: each of the regions was totally different from the others. The coastal desert was incredibly barren, except for irrigated fields and occasional oases. A visit to the offshore "guano islands" yielded Jane's first penguins—four Humboldt Penguins on a small rocky islet—along with enormous numbers of Peruvian Boobies and Guanay Cormorants, and single Antarctic Giant Petrel and Chilean Skua. They agreed that the many Inca Terns were the classiest members of the genus, their white mustaches and coral bills contrasting with gray body plumage. They found the Andean scenery incredible, with glacier-capped peaks well over 20,000 feet and narrow precipitous canyons.

The Inca ruins at Machu Picchu are too well known to need description, but the birding isn't so well publicized. Tanagers were represented by a horde of species, including Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager, Flame-faced Tanager, Silver-beaked Tanager, and Beryl-spangled Tanager. (All told, Dennis and Jane saw 28 species of tanager—27 of which were life birds.) Their 13 hummingbirds included Violet-throated Starfrontlet, Amethyst-throated Woodstar, Shining Sunbeam, and the incredible Sword-billed Hummingbird. Two local endemics, the elegant Bearded Mountaineer (hummingbird) and the Inca Wren, were particular targets, and the Coskrens' search was rewarded. Perhaps the best bird, though, was a single Andean Condor soaring high overhead.

The last few days of the trip were spent in the rainforest of the upper headwaters of the Amazon basin, where several large wilderness preserves have been established, and travel is necessarily by boat or on foot. Most of their 13 species of parrots were there. The "clay licks" along the Manu River, Jane says, deserve to be much more famous. They allow close-up views of hordes of macaws (Scarlet, Red-and-green, Blue-and-yellow, and Chestnut-bellied. A single Harpy Eagle gave Dennis a distant view. Altogether, they had over 250 species, most of them life birds. Oh, yes! The Jaguar! As the group cruised downriver, a Jaguar swam powerfully across the river ahead of their boat and then climbed the steep bank. He gave the party one appraising look (perhaps they were life humans for him) and disappeared into the rain forest.

Cecil Bird Club and the Turkey Point Hawk Watch Each Celebrate 10th Anniversary. The Turkey Point Hawk Watch, started by Charles Gant and Gary Griffith (members of the then newly formed Cecil Bird Club), opened its 10th season on September 6. It will continue until the end of November. The highest total count occurred in 1999, when over 7,000 raptors passed through. The fall season of 2002 yielded 3,982 raptors in 74 calendar days. Seventeen species of diurnal raptors have been observed over the years at the Turkey Point Hawk Watch. It is also an excellent place to spot Saw-whet Owls and many other species.

Counters are always needed, particularly on weekdays, most especially Mondays, Tuesdays, or Wednesdays. (Counters and hawk watch groupies celebrate at the end of each season with a special Post-Hawk Watch Bash.) To volunteer, contact Leslie Fisher at gonbrdn@dol.net and check out directions and instructions on www.udel.edu/cecilbirds/hawkwatch.html. To visit Turkey Point, take I-95 or Rte. 40 to the Rte. 272 South exit. Drive through the town of North East, staying on Rte. 272 South. Continue past the main part of Elk Neck State Park (camping area, day use areas, etc.) and past the community of Chesapeake Isle. Rte. 272 ends at the Turkey Point parking lot, about 11 miles south of the town of North East. Park at the lot and walk past the barrier onto the gravel lane, with the cliffs and the North East River on your right. Continue south on this lane, which will soon veer inland, passing through two meadows and then through a small woodlot, to emerge at the Point and its historic lighthouse. The official hawk count is usually conducted in the meadow just before the lighthouse, near the Hawk Watch sign, but depending on wind conditions, it may take place at the lighthouse area itself. It is exactly 0.9 mile to the usual watch site from the parking lot and another 0.1 mile from the meadow to the lighthouse. It's a trip worth taking to see some spectacular birds.

RESEARCH GRANT DEADLINE APPROACHING!

The Maryland Ornithological Society announces the availability of research grants for ornithological research to be conducted in the state of Maryland. Grants are generally limited to amounts less than $2,000. If the research is to be done at or near one of the MOS sanctuaries, the Society may be able to provide accommodations at a nominal cost. Proposals are reviewed twice annually with deadlines of **1 December** and **1 June** and with award notification in approximately eight weeks. For application guidelines and further information write or e-mail:

Gwen Brewer
MOS Research Committee
9505 Bland St.
Waldorf, MD 20603

glbrewer@comcast.net

Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project 2002 through 2006

A Call to Binoculars: Getting Over the Mid-Atlas Crisis
by Walter G. Ellison, Maryland/D.C. Atlas Coordinator

There comes a time in every long-running project–atlas projects are no exception–where inertia threatens to slow progress to a crawl. You hit diminishing returns in your assigned block in a big way; the urban sprawl or wall-to-wall soy and corn in that quarterblock you haven't done anything with must surely be the avian desert you imagine it to be; that block your coordinator wants you to "look into" seems terribly uninteresting compared to your beloved local patch.

I cannot predict nor remove your personal reasons for "hitting the wall," so to speak, but I can offer a pep talk. I hope you might see how critically important it is to work in unexplored and superficially unattractive blocks and quarterblocks. At a fundamental level, despite atlas work two decades ago, entering such a study area is an adventure and exploration of avian *terra incognita*. Nobody knows what has happened to the birds of these places for over two decades; although we can hypothesize wholesale losses in rapidly developing localities, we don't have proof until we actually look. We can't afford to hand state and local planners and future generations of birders a flawed, incomplete map of the state's nesting birds. If one doesn't look at that foul-looking wetland with the sunken tires and peacock oil-slicked waters, how can anybody know for certain that it lacks the Virginia Rails it had 20 years ago? Besides, if that stretch of asphalt and brick you are avoiding really does have fewer than 20 bird species, how long could it take to find this out?

During my first atlas project in Vermont back in the 1970s I learned the lesson about underestimating little-known territory early, but it was an event in my third field season that hammered the message home. A friend and I were on a block-busting trip to northeastern Vermont–a land with a mixture of boreal spruce-fir and transitional hardwood forests that offered the promise of Gray Jays, Boreal Chickadees, and Black-backed Woodpeckers far up remote, poorly-mapped logging roads. For the next day's block we had a choice between a nearly roadless block on paper company land and a tamer looking block along the Connecticut River. My buddy agitated for the more "wild" block, arguing the birds would be "better" there. I wanted to stick to my planned coverage sequence for our blocks. I felt that we had never seen either place and had no real idea which block was actually "better."

We eventually settled on doing the remote block on the succeeding day, and we covered the hill pastures, hayfields, floodplain, and second-growth boreal and hardwood forests of the valley block on the appointed day. We saw many birds we could never have found in the remote lumber company lands such as Bobolinks and Savannah Sparrows. We also located Philadelphia Vireo, nesting Lincoln's Sparrows, and 16 species of warblers.

At mid-morning we were working a steep, alder-lined dirt road flanking a boggy, shrub-filled pasture. I heard a begging call I didn't recognize and fetched upon a pale yellow animate ball of fluff in the alders. The fledgling was soon joined by its parent bearing food. The parent was a small, bright yellow warbler with a neat black cap. We'd unearthed the only confirmed breeding for Wilson's Warbler for the Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas.

The timber company block eventually proved its worth, but it was clearly worthwhile to have worked that "unpromising" looking block. When you atlas an "undesirable" block or quarterblock, you are showing true birding citizenship. Atlasing is birding with a higher purpose, and besides, it's fun to find out what's around the next corner.

DNR REPORTS...
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swans feed when the plants are attempting to reproduce, interrupting seed production and dispersal. At high densities, Mute Swans overgraze an entire area, leaving the Bay's bottom completely barren.

To increase the understanding of Mute Swan impacts on SAV, Microwave Technology, a manufacturer of high-tech equipment, has teamed with the DNR and U.S. Geological Survey, New York Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit. A small sample of male swans—members of large nonbreeding flocks that concentrate on large SAV beds—has been outfitted with unique GPS satellite transmitters. The transmitters provide an exact location, allowing the swans' movement to be tracked.

Preliminary information gathered during the fall and winter of 2003 demonstrates that swans spend nearly all their time in areas where bay grasses occur. This study will be expanded, and the new information will aid wildlife managers to better understand the daily and seasonal movements of swans in relationship to SAV resources, water depth, and salinity.

DNR has also initiated a neck collar survey to document seasonal movements of Mute Swans. In cooperation with the New York Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at Cornell University, we captured and marked about 75 Mute Swans with white neckbands bearing a black alphanumeric code. Another 25 breeding females have been marked with conventional radios transmitters. Their movements are being tracked from the ground using a hand-held radio receiver.

For the next 14 months, observations of neck-banded swans along with locations of radio-marked birds will be used to track swan movements to determine home range, seasonal movements, movement of failed and successful breeders, and movement in relation to submerged aquatic vegetation abundance and water depth and salinity.

You can help! Since birders are often afield, you are likely to observe some of these neck-collared Mute Swans. If you do, we would like your observations. You can report such observations online. Go to the following page on the DNR website: www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/msncsurvey.html. We will need the date of your observation, location, and neck collar code. We would also like to know if the swan was in a flock (and if so, size of the flock), paired with another Mute Swan, or alone.

Thanks for your assistance!

Got (Maryland) Birds?

Each year, the MOS compiles and publishes totals from its members' state and local bird lists. We invite everyone to join in the fun. Along with your lists, we welcome comments, thoughts, or anecdotes. Specifics on your yard habitat and size will also be of interest, particularly if your yard list is high. If you have other types of lists (for example, Big Day totals for State or County, either all-time or for 2003), send them in. And if you log other entertaining categories—like the "Tree Bird List" kept by Peter Osenton (Anne Arundel)—make a note of them, too.

The forms for reporting your 2003 totals are on the reverse. You can submit totals for any or all of the following categories:

STATE/COUNTY CUMULATIVE LISTS: This category includes "lifetime" totals identified anywhere in the state of Maryland, in DC, or within any of the Maryland's 23 counties. Choose one, two, or even all of these locations. Due to space limitations, please submit only totals that exceed 50% of the "maximum" for each locality. (The form shows the latest maximums that we're aware of and the 50% thresholds.)

With a possible 418 species in Maryland, last year 60 people hit the 300 mark and 110 made the 50% cutoff; Mark Hoffman (Carroll) was tops with 380, followed closely by Jim Stasz (Calvert) and Paul O'Brien (Montgomery) at 379. Ottavio Janni with 262 remains the top lister in DC, though he currently resides in Italy.

STATE/COUNTY 2003 LISTS: Total species identified in 2003 for the same localities as above. There are no thresholds. In 2002, Jim Stasz outdid everyone, with 314 species. In the District, it was Paul Pisano (VA) with 189.

YARD LIST: This category includes both Lifetime Yard Lists and your Yard Lists 2003. You may count any species you've identified while in your "yard" (that is, your property contiguous to your home, or perhaps your workplace). "Flyovers" and other birds identified from your yard (even if they were not in your yard) also count. You are asked to briefly describe your "yard." The all-time birdiest yard is Henry Armistead's (PA) weekend home in Talbot Co, with 262. Honors for the biggest Year Yard List in 2002 went to Patty Craig (St. Mary's) with 158.

ALL-COUNTY LIST: This challenging category enumerates the species you've identified in all of the 23 Maryland counties. For example, if you have identified a Northern Mockingbird, an American Crow, a Downy Woodpecker, and a Red-tailed Hawk in each of the 23 counties, your list total would be 4. You would also be way behind Jim Stasz, who has 165 "closeouts"—nearly three-quarters of the 221 possibilities.

MARYLAND BIG TICK: You get this number by adding up all of your county lists, Lifetime or Annual. In 2002, the maximum number of species was 6,602 (282 in Allegany, 331 in Anne Arundel, etc). Jim Stasz, challenged to better the 2001 record of 3,322 set by Dave Perry (Anne Arundel), counterchallenged birders to make pledges to the Breeding Bird Atlas project for each species he notched for 2003, provided he exceeded 3,000. As Norm Saunders writes in the Annual State and Locality List Report (see the MOS Website, Members Corner: www.mdbirds.org/members), "Jim Stasz had one of the most incredible years ever, one that may never be equaled in these record books and one that cost a few of us a lot of money. Jim tallied an amazing 4,086 species and increased his Life Big Tick total to 5,873."

To submit all-time highs, your number must exceed 2,300 (an average of 100 species per county). For a 2003 Total Tick, any number will be accepted.

ALL-TIME HIGH ANNUAL LISTS: This category tracks all-time highs from the current and previous years. You can submit totals for previous years as well as for 2003.

- For Maryland, submitted totals should equal or exceed 289 (70% of the maximum possible number).
- For individual counties, totals submitted from previous years should exceed either 50% of the maximum possible or the top total previously published for that county. See the MOS website (www.mdbirds.org) for previously published totals.

Members' totals that have not been updated within the previous five years (1998–2002) will be dropped from the database.

Questions??? Contact Norm Saunders at marshhawk@att.net or 301-989-9035.

Please return the form BEFORE **January 20, 2004** to:
Norm Saunders
1261 Cavendish Drive
Colesville, MD 20905-7030

Results will be published on the MOS website: www.mdbirds.org

MOS 2003 MD/DC LOCALITY LIST REPORTING FORM

Report List Totals as of 12/31/2003

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION		
Name:		
Address:		
City:		County:
State:	Zip:	Email:
Phones: (day): ( )		(evening): ( )

II. STATE/COUNTY LIFE AND 2003 LISTS

Locality List	Max/50%	Life	2003	Locality List	Max/50%	Life	2003
Maryland State	418/209			District of Columbia	312/156		
MD Yard List*	-			DC Yard List*	-		
Allegany County	282/141			Howard County	293/147		
Anne Arundel County	331/166			Kent County	300/150		
Baltimore City/County	333/167			Montgomery County	309/155		
Calvert County	304/152			Prince George's County	317/159		
Caroline County	293/147			Queen Anne's County	302/151		
Carroll County	278/139			St. Mary's County	319/160		
Cecil County	294/147			Somerset County	303/152		
Charles County	284/142			Talbot County	312/156		
Dorchester County	316/158			Washington County	260/130		
Frederick County	290/145			Wicomico County	291/146		
Garrett County	276/138			Worcester County	373/187		
Harford County	299/150			All-County List	226/---		
Total Tick	6,957/2,300						

* **Yard List Information**:
County:_____
Location: Home: _____ Work: _____ Other? (specify): _____
Brief Description: (size, habitat, etc):

III. ANNUAL ALL-TIME HIGH LISTS (for years other than 2003)

Locality List	Year	#	Locality List	Year	#

(Please use one form per person)

Minutes of the MOS Board Meeting
June 21, 2003

President: Paul Zucker; **Vice President:** Janet Millenson; **Secretary:** Janet Shields; **Past President:** Karen Morley

Atlas: Jane Coskren; **Conference:** Mike Callahan; **EFM:** Marcia Balestri; **Investments:** Martha Waugh

Allegany: Gwen Brewer, Nancy Folk, Barbara Gaffney; **Anne Arundel:** *not represented;* **Baltimore:** Ben Poscover, Ruth Poscover; **Caroline:** *not represented;* **Carroll:** *not represented;* **Cecil:** Marcia Watson-Whitmyre; **Frederick:** Marcia Balestri ; **Harford:** Nancy Congersky, Thomas Congersky; **Howard:** Mary Jo Betts, Mike Callahan, Jane Coskren, Kurt Schwarz, Martha Waugh; **Kent:** Walter Ellison; **Montgomery:** Laura Appelbaum, Sam Freiberg, David Gray, Helen Gray, John Hubbell; **Patuxent:** Fred Fallon, Chan Robbins; **Talbot:** Bill Novak, Myra Novak; **Tri-County:** *not represented;* **Washington:** Shirley Ford, Anna Hutzell, Judy Lilga, Ann Mitchell

President Paul Zucker called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. and thanked the Allegany County Chapter for hosting.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Shiras Guion, Karen Morley reported one correction: the Raffle/Silent Auction at the Annual Conference earned not $2,988.76 but $3,000.00, the highest ever.

President's Remarks: The next board meeting will be held September 6 (not the 9th) in Anne Arundel County, followed by meetings on December 6 and March 6. The date of the June meeting is not yet decided because the MOS Conference is scheduled for mid-June.

Paul has received some committees' annual reports (for *Maryland Birdlife*) but is still waiting for others. Please send them in.

The main challenge facing MOS recently has been to fill various positions that have opened up. If we want our society to grow the way it should, people must overcome their reluctance to take on these responsibilities. The following new appointments were announced: Don Simonson—World Series of Birding; Candi Lee—Calendar for *The Yellowthroat;* John Malcolm—Sales/Merchandise. Mike Welch agreed to chair the Seasonal Counts Committee, a position that needs board approval; this was moved and passed.

Review of Action Items:

1. Candidates are still needed to fill committee chairs and other openings.
2. Paul Zucker still needs two-paragraph annual summaries from some committees.
3. The 2004 conference will be held in Chestertown.
4. Janet Millenson has heard nothing further from anyone about chapter Best Practices.
5. Chapter presidents did ask for volunteers to help with the 2003 conference and an excellent group was assembled.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sanctuary: In the absence of Dotty Mumford, Barbara Gaffney reported that stone is to be put on the lane into Carey Run, but there's a problem getting the stone across the bridge. The issue of Autumn Olive removal is unresolved and alternatives are being explored.

Atlas: Walter Ellison announced that the state has produced the $40,000 contract for the upcoming fiscal year (starting July 1, 2003). He has invoiced the state for last year's $20,000 in CARA money. Glenn Therres said the expenditure had been approved, but MOS has not yet received the money. The Atlas' data entry website is up and running. Walter's wife, Nancy Martin, will be coordinating mini routes; about 100 are being done this year.

Jane Coskren thanked all donors to the Atlas Committee. Recent donations include $500 from Montgomery County, $350 from Kent County, and $1,000 from the Audubon Naturalist Society.

Investment: Martha Waugh's fourth progress report included a detailed summary of each MOS fund. Committee goals include continuity, transparency, safety and income. Actual income this year has been close to what was anticipated; however, there are no guarantees. MOS has a strong position in various Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITS), which have been doing as well as or better than expected but need to be watched very carefully. About 8% of our investments are in money market funds, and we expect $189,000 in government and private bonds to mature this year. Paul Zucker presented to Martha Waugh (who had not been at the conference to receive it) an "Attagirl" award, made by John Malcolm, for her outstanding first year as chair of the Investment Committee.

Conference: Mike Callahan reported that 240 people had registered for the 2003 conference at the Bolger Center in Montgomery County. The board voted to approve holding next year's conference on June 11-13, 2004, at Washington College in Chestertown (Kent County). As for the 2005 conference, it was suggested that we return to Solomons in Calvert County, in which case Anne Arundel would be the host chapter. The Southern Maryland Audubon Society worked with MOS on the last Solomons conference, in 1999; Gwen Brewer will contact them to see if they are interested in being involved again in 2005.

EFM and audits: The EFM (Environmental Fund for Maryland) is a conservation organization that raises money through the Combined Federal Campaign and other business giving programs. MOS has participated in EFM for several years and receives approximately $3,000 annually in contributions. The Combined Federal Campaign requires that all organizations with income over $100,000 a year be audited; this would include MOS. However, Maryland state law does not require an audit for MOS until donations (not income) exceed $200,000 a year. MOS is already included in EFM for the next year. The question for future years is whether or not to get an audit and participate in EFM.

For a full audit and tax return, our previous auditor quoted $7,500; another auditor who works with EFM quoted $3,500 to $5,000. MOS received about $2,600 from EFM last year, but EFM expects this amount to increase by 30%. Beyond our participation in EFM, another reason for performing an audit is to ensure that our financial books are in order.

The Executive Committee favors having an annual audit but felt that the decision was important enough that the whole board should address it. In the discussion, the point was made that EFM and an audit are really two separate issues. A consensus emerged that **an organization the size and complexity of MOS needs an audit to maintain credibility and guarantee proper record keeping. It was moved that MOS have a yearly audit. The motion was seconded and approved.**

New Committee Structure: The Executive Committee is recommending a new plan for organizing MOS committees, based on suggestions gathered at the MOS retreat. The idea is to have five groups of committees, each one headed by a member of the Executive Committee, so that information and responsibility can be better shared. The role of the group leaders will be to coordinate and facilitate the work of the committees. Committees within a group will probably share members. The five groups will be: Outreach, Education, Finance, Administrative, and Birds and Habitat. Some new committees will be formed, and some existing ones will be renamed; others will be split into two separate committees.

Based on the June board meeting discussion, the Executive Committee will review the pro-

(continued on page 11, column 3)

MOS Activities, November 2003–January 2004

★= Field Trip

Wednesday, October 29

★**Harford**. Turkey Point Hawk Watch II. The club returns to this great local hawk watch to pick up the late migrant raptors that were missed on our last trip. Meet at the MD155 and I-95 park-n-ride at 8 AM.

Saturday, November 1

ANNUAL BANQUET. **Allegany**. Speaker Dick Smith: "Rare Butterflies of MD." 5:30 PM at the First United Methodist Church Social Hall, 48 Main St., Frostburg. Please call Charlotte Folk (301-689-6587) to make reservations. Call Charlotte or Barbara Gaffney (301-895-4646) for more info. Cost for the dinner is $13 (students $10), which includes tax and gratuities. Please send payment to Charlotte Folk at 179 Mt. Pleasant Street, Frostburg, MD 21532.

★**Harford**. Owl Prowl. Tame nightlife getting you down? Get with the pros as leaders guide you through the Harford countryside to make "rarely heard—seldom seen" a thing of your owling past. Dress warmly and meet at the Eden Mill millhouse at 5:30 PM.

★**Howard**. Bon Secours. 9:30 AM (1.5 hours). Meet in visitor parking lot. Leaders Michele Wright (410-465-6057) and Eva Sunell (410-995-0029). Easy walk through the lovely grounds of this spiritual center. Woodlands and fields will host a variety of birds. Facilities available.

Saturday, Nov. 1 – Sunday, Nov. 2

★**Frederick**. Town Hill Overnight. We will stay at a local B&B on Saturday and visit the famous (in Maryland, anyway) Hawk Watch. This time of year is good for Northern Goshawks. Meet at 10 AM at Baker Park on Nov. 1. For information and reservations, contact Dave Smith (410-549-7082).

Sunday, November 2

★**Howard**. Centennial. 8 AM (3 hours). Meet west end lot. Leader Ralph Cullison (410-442-2181). Easy 2-mile walk around lake on paved path. Migrant hawks expected and late passerines may be lingering. Facilities available.

★**Talbot**. Leader Danny Poet (410-827-8651 dannypoet@hotmail.com). 7 AM. Wye Island: Land and water birds; don't miss the giant holly. No breakfast. Depart Tred Avon Shopping Ctr. parking lot in front of Acme, Easton.

Tuesday, November 4

★ **Baltimore.** 8:30 AM. Loch Raven Self-guided Walk. Join Baltimore Bird Club members during November in the first of four walks. Hike through woods and fields with the opportunity to see many migrants such as Rusty Blackbirds, Fox Sparrows, Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes. Scope the lake for Bald Eagles, swans, ducks and other waterfowl. No designated leader. Coordinators: Elliot Kirschbaum, ekirschb@bcpl.net or 410-243-1481, and Paul Noel, myconut@msn.com or 410-243-2652.

MEETING. **Baltimore**. 7:30 PM. Tuesday Evenings at Sherwood. "MD Peregrine Falcons—A Closer Look." Craig Koppie.

Wednesday, November 5

★**Baltimore**. 9:30 AM–Noon. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. Our monthly visit to assist in survey of bird activity. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain, snow). Leader: Jim Peters, 410- 429-0966.

MEETING. **Carroll**. Paul Guris from See Life Paulagics will present "Pelagic Birds of the Mid-Atlantic." 7:30 PM at Senior Citizens Center, 125 Stoner Ave, Westminster. For info: Laura Tarbell, 410- 857-1109.

Thursday, November 6

MEETING. **Frederick**. Don Briddell presents "My Life with Birds," a discussion of the importance of birds to people in Somerset County, Tidewater Country and some of the history of Irish Grove and the surrounding area. Meet at C. Burr Artz Library in downtown Frederick at 7:00 PM. Contact Marcia Balestri (301-473-5098, mebalestri@erols.com).

Friday, November 7

★**Cecil**. Turkey Point OWLS BY NIGHT. Meet at 7 PM at Turkey Point parking lot (2–3 hrs). For further info contact leaders Scott Powers (410-658-2360) or Richard Donham (610-932-0634).

MEETING. **Harford**. Program TBA. Meet at 7:00 PM at Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD22 & MD136. For further information, call Jean Wheeler at 410-879-7424.

BANDING. **Montgomery**. Saw-whet Owl banding station. Half night. Visit banding station at South Mountain, MD to watch Saw-whet banding by Steve Huy. Meet 9 PM at Rte. 80 Park & Ride (off I-270). Limit 15. Call Leader Mike Bowen (301-530-5764) for reservations (required) and more info. Rain date Nov 9.

Saturday, November 8

★**Howard**. Sandy Point State Park. Joint Trip with Kent County. 7 AM. Half day (meet at Rte. 100 Park & Ride). Leader: Walter Ellison. Easy walking on paths and sand. A great location for waterfowl and gulls. Scopes useful, Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361. Facilities available.

★**Frederick**. Point Lookout and environs for Kelp Gull, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Red-headed Woodpeckers, waterfowl and late migrants. Bring your lunch and meet at Urbana Park & Ride South at 6 AM. Call Mike Welch (301-874-5828) for further information.

★ **Talbot**. Contact: Mark Scallion (410.310.2385, mscallion@audubon.org). 7 PM Saw-whet Owl Banding at Adkins Arboretum, bring snack and reading material. *Reservation required*. Depart Tred Avon Shopping Center parking lot in front of Acme, Easton.

★**Kent**. Meet Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown, 7 AM. Sandy Point State Park on Western Shore. Joint trip with Howard County Bird Club. Half Day. Info (410) 778-9568 or (410) 648-5205.

Sunday, November 9

★**Howard**. Centennial. 8 AM (3 hours). Meet at west end lot. Leader Harry Fink (410-988-8008). Easy 2-mile walk around lake on paved path. Starting to look for waterfowl and hawks still passing through. Facilities available.

PELOT SANCTUARY MAINTENANCE. **Caroline**. 1 PM at sanctuary. Bill Scudder, Coordinator.

★**Talbot**. Leader, Scott Crabtree (410-643-3237, crabtree@myshorelink.com) 7 AM. Queen Anne's County Sparrow Quest. No Breakfast. Depart Prime Outlets, Queenstown, in front of LL Bean.

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MOS CALENDAR
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★ = Field Trip

Tuesday, November 11

★**Baltimore**. 8:30 AM Loch Raven Self-guided Walk. Join Baltimore Bird Club members during November in the second of four walks. Hike through woods and fields with the opportunity to see many migrants such as Rusty Blackbirds, Fox Sparrows, Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes. Scope the lake for Bald Eagles, swans, ducks and other waterfowl. No designated leader. Coordinators: Elliot Kirshbaum, ekirschb@bcpl.net or 410-243-1481, and Paul Noel, myconut@msn.com or 410-243-2652.

MEETING. **Patuxent**. "Plumage, Evolution, Speciation—with Application to the Baltimore Oriole and Its Relatives," with Kevin Olman of UMBC. A layman's account of how the new technique of DNA matching helps classify birds by species and family, and reveals how they evolved from one another, especially as applied to Maryland's colorful state bird and its oriole relatives. Formal program at 7:30 PM; doors open at 7 for informal conversation, refreshments, exchange of birding news. At College Park Museum Annex at the end of Cpl. Scott Drive, off Paint Branch Parkway, 1st light east of College Park Metro Station.

Thursday, November 13

MEETING. **Howard**. "A Southern Oceans Expedition: Scenery and Wildlife of the Antarctic Peninsula and South Georgia and Falkland Islands," by Phil and Barbara Davis. Longfellow Elem. School, Columbia. Hospitality and bookstore 7:30 PM, program begins 8 PM. For info: Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643.

MEETING. **Talbot**. Mike Callahan, Charles Co. Public Schools. "Barn Owl Ecology." Learn about the common Barn Owl and why it is an uncommon MD breeding bird. Mike will share stories from monitoring nest boxes and working with non-releasable captive birds. A live bird which you can photograph will be present. Meeting 7:30 PM in basement of Suntrust Bank, corner of Harrison & Goldsborough Sts., Easton.

Friday, Nov. 14 – Sunday, Nov. 16

EASTON WATERFOWL FESTIVAL. **Talbot**.

Saturday, November 15

★**Allegany**. For waterfowl. Meet at the Western MD Train Station at 8:00 AM. Contact J.B. Churchill at 301-697-1223 for information.

★**Howard**. Piney Run in Carroll County (joint trip with CCBC). 8 AM (half day.) Meet at 32/70 Park & Ride. Leader Bob Ringler. Easy walk through the woodlands and fields of the Carroll County Park. The lake hosts a variety of waterfowl. Scopes useful. Facilities available. Call Bonnie for info, 410-461-3361

★**Baltimore**. 9:30 AM. Blackwater NWR. All-day trip to see ducks, thousands of Canada and Snow Geese. Possible Bald Eagle and Brown-headed Nuthatch. Directions from Bay Bridge: south on US 50 to Cambridge. Right (south) on Rte. 16 (Church Creek Rd), about 7 miles, left (east) on Rte. 335, about 5 miles, left on Key Wallace drive. About one mile. Right into drive to Refuge visitor center. No reservations necessary. Leader Taylor McLean, 410-377-7622.

★**Carroll**. To Sandy Point State Park for waterfowl. Meet 8 AM at the Park & Ride located at Rte 32 & I-70. For more info, contact trip leader Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117.

Saturday, Nov. 15 – Sunday, Nov. 16

★**Baltimore**. A Weekend of Eastern Shore Birding. Attend one or both days. Stay overnight on Nov 15 for an early morning start on Nov 16.

Sunday, November 16

★**Cecil**. Avalon Sea Watch with possible side trip to Cape May Hawk Watch. Meet at 7 AM at Big Elk Mall Dunkin' Donuts parking lot (full day). For further info contact leaders Chris Starling (410-287-4223) or Richard Donham (610-932-0634).

★**Harford**. Joppatowne Hotspots. Marshland, riverside forest, coastal plain pine forest, fallow fields, marinas, and large deepwater impoundment make a winning formula for winter birding. Meet at Mariner Point Park near pavilion at back parking lot at 7:30 AM.

★**Howard**. Centennial. 8 AM (3 hours). Meet at west end lot. Leader Kurt Schwarz (410-461-1643). Easy 2-mile walk around lake on paved path. Waterfowl expected and late migrant hawks. Facilities available.

★**Baltimore**. 6 AM Hooper's Island. Hawk and landbird flights, early winter waterbirds Transit Blackwater NWR, the brand new Maple Dam Rd. impoundments, Bestpitch Ferry Bridge & Griffiths Neck Rd., Elliott Island, possibly Hurlock Sewage Ponds. Itinerary, depending on weather, will be flexible. Carpool after breakfast in Cambridge. Leader: Harry Armistead. Reservations necessary. Please contact coordinator, Gail Frantz, 410-833-7135 or guineabird@aol.com.

★**Tri-County**. Bombay Hook NWR for wintering waterfowl and hopefully a Ross's Goose. Leader Charlie Vaughn (410-742-7221). Meet Asbury Methodist Church (north parking lot), Salisbury, at 7:30 AM. Bring lunch / snack / drink.

Tuesday, November 18

★**Baltimore**. 8:30 AM Loch Raven Self-guided Walk. Join Baltimore Bird Club members during November in the third of four walks. Hike through woods and fields with the opportunity to see many migrants such as Rusty Blackbirds, Fox Sparrows, Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes. Scope the lake for Bald Eagles, swans, ducks and other waterfowl. No designated leader. Coordinators: Elliot Kirshbaum, ekirschb@bcpl.net or 410-243-1481, and Paul Noel, myconut@msn.com or 410-243-2652.

Wednesday, November 19

MEETING. **Montgomery**. "Birds, Eels and Turtles—Migration and Magnetism." Speaker, Jean Mielczarek. Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd., Potomac, 7 PM.

MEETING. **Cecil**. "The Bird Song Grammies" by Jeffrey Gordon. 7 PM at Elkton High School Media Center. Raffle, refreshments. Info: Rick Lee (410-287-0415).

Thursday, November 20

MEETING. **Caroline**. "Bats." Speaker, Sana Limpert. 7:30 PM. Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market Street, Denton.

Saturday, November 22

★**Harford**. Eastern Neck NWR. Join experienced leaders for this prime winter birding area fronting the Chesapeake Bay in Kent County. Dress warmly, bring lunch. Meet at the MD 155 and I-95 Park & Ride at 6:30 AM.

★ **Frederick**. Waterfowl Wander. Helen Horrocks will take us to Blackwater NWR, the Eastern Shore, or wherever the waterfowl are being seen. We will also look for Snow Goose (and maybe Ross's Goose), Bald Eagles, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and late migrants. Bring your lunch (or we will stop at the Citgo Deli and you can pick one up there) and meet at Urbana Park & Ride South at 6 AM. Call Helen (301-831-6315) to confirm.

★**Baltimore**. 8 AM to Noon. Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry. Cancelled if raining. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

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MOS CALENDAR
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★= Field Trip

★**Baltimore**. Horsehead Wetlands Center and Terrapin Nature Park Meet 7:30 AM at Nursery Road Park & Ride, Baltimore Beltway exit 8 (*not* 8A) or south of Grasonville at Horsehead visitor center lot 8:30 AM for winter waterfowl and passerines. Leader: Kevin Graff, ocean_city2001@yahoo.com. Coordinator: Pete Webb, 410-486-1217 or pwebb@bcpl.net.

Sunday, November 23

★**Howard**. Centennial. 8 AM (3 hours). Meet at west end lot. Leader Richard Orr (410-730-7290). Easy walking on paved path around the lake. Waterfowl expected and winter arrivals possible. Facilities available.

★ **Kent**. Meet Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown, 7 AM. Blackwater NWR for ducks and geese. Full day, bring lunch. Info 410-778-9568 or 410-648-5205.

★**Patuxent**. Jug Bay and Merkle WMA, & vicinity. Early waterfowl and winter sparrows. Meet at Bowie Park&Ride at 7:30 AM. Leader: David Mozurkewich.

★**Talbot**. Leader: Karen & Bill Harris (410-643-1947, keharris@crosslink.net). 7 AM. Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center: Waterfowl, marsh birds and more. No breakfast. Depart Tred Avon Shopping Center parking lot in front of Acme, Easton.

Monday, November 24

Meeting. **Tri-County.** *Watching Sparrows*, video by Michael Male & Judy Fieth. 7 PM at Asbury Methodist Church, Salisbury (Fox Room, south entrance).

Meeting. **Kent.** Kent County Library, Chestertown. 7:30 PM. Speaker: TBD. Info 410-778-9568 or 410-648-5205.

Saturday, November 29

★ **Cecil**. Eagle Watch. Meet at 8 AM at Conowingo Dam Fisherman's Parking Lot (half day). For further info contact leaders Charlie Gant (410-398-3554), Sean McCandless (410-392-03407), or Richard Donham (610-932-0634).

★**Harford**. Conowingo Gull Watch. One of the best sites in the mid-Atlantic for locating winter gulls. Meet 8 AM at Fisherman's Park at bottom (east end) of Shures Landing Road.

Sunday, November 30

★**Talbot**. Leader: Shirley Bailey (410.943.8925, sjbbirds@dmv.com). 7 AM. Cambridge Waterfront: Redheads and more. Breakfast at local restaurant. Depart Tred Avon Shopping Center parking lot in front of Acme, Easton.

Tuesday, December 2

Meeting. **Baltimore**. 7:30 PM Tuesday Evenings at Sherwood. "Wetlands and Waterfowl." Bill Slott.

Wednesday, December 3

★**Baltimore**. 9:30 AM–Noon. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. Our monthly visit to assist in survey of bird activity. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain, snow). Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

Meeting. **Carroll**. Bob Ringler will present "Birding the Alaskan Frontier." 7:30 PM at Senior Citizens Center, 125 Stoner Ave, Westminster. For info call Laura Tarbell, 410-857-1109.

Thursday, December 4

Meeting and Christmas Dinner. **Frederick**. Mark Hoffman will review "Rare Birds of Maryland." Cocktail punch at 6 PM and dinner at 7 PM. The place is still to be determined and will be announced at one of our regular meetings. Please make reservations with and send money to President Dave Smith or Treasurer Nancy Parker before 11/29/03.

Spring Planning Meeting. **Talbot**. Host: Mark Scallion, mscallion@audubon.org, 410-310-2385). 7:30 PM. Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Garden Classroom. Dessert served.

Saturday, December 6

★**Howard**. Blackwater NWR. Visit this Maryland refuge during their open house weekend. All day. Leader Stan Arnold.

★**Carroll**. Pelagic trip. Limited space on the boat. Contact Mark Hoffman (410-549-3598) for reservations and/or details of trip.

★**Montgomery.** Blackwater NWR and Elliott Island. Full day; equal parts of day at each location. Meet at Blackwater Visitor Center on Key Wallace Drive at 7:30 AM. (There is a fee to enter the NWR.) Bring snacks, lunch (plan to eat lunch before leaving Blackwater), beverages. Wear appropriate layers of clothing and anticipate the worst possible conditions. Bring a scope if you have one. Target birds are waterfowl, wintering land birds and raptors, including Brown-headed Nuthatch, Golden Eagle, Rough-legged Hawk and Short-eared Owl. Limit 10–15 based on carpooling, arranged in advance (to limit the number of autos on Elliott Island Road). Reservations required. Leader: Jim Green, 301-208-2393.

★**Montgomery.** Black Hill Regional Park. (Possibly December 7.) Half day. All are welcome. We'll concentrate on identifying wintering water birds at excellent local lake and look at land birds, too. This is a joint MBC/ANS trip. Reservations required. Call leader for reservations and correct date: Bill Elliott, 301-869-6904.

Sunday, December 7

★**Cecil**. Waterfowl of Cecil County. Meet at 8 AM at Big Elk Mall Dunkin' Donuts parking lot (half day). For further info contact leaders, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre (410-392-9236) or Richard Donham (610-932-0634).

★**Patuxent**. Horsehead Sanctuary (small admission fee, waived for MOS members) and Terrapin Beach on Kent Island, with excursion to near-Shore to try for Longspurs and Snow Buntings. Meet at Bowie Park & Ride, 7:30 AM. Leader: Fred Shaffer.

★**Montgomery.** Lilypons-New Design Rd., Frederick Co. Half day. Wintering field birds, targeting Fox and Tree Sparrows and possible American Bittern. Call leader for reservations (required) and more information: Gail Mackiernan, 301-989-1828.

Tuesday, December 9

Meeting: **Patuxent**. Members' slide show and holiday party, at the more spacious venue of Watkins Park Nature Center. Bring your latest slides/digital images and a hot dish to share. Doors open at 6:30 PM for informal conversation, refreshments, exchange of birding news.

Thursday, December 11

Meeting. **Howard**. "An International Birder's Odyssey," by Hank Kaestner. Longfellow Elem. School, Columbia. Hospitality and bookstore 7:30 PM, program begins 8 PM. For information call Kurt Schwarz at 410-461-1643.

Saturday, December 13

★**Montgomery.** Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, NE DC. Half day. Easier to reach and more attractive than you think. Meet at 8 AM at the main parking lot. Directions: Take first exit from Kenilworth Avenue southbound from

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MOS CALENDAR

(continued from previous page)

★= Field Trip

junction with Rte 50. Go three blocks and turn right on Douglas, go to the end of Douglas and turn right—the gardens are about half block ahead on the right. Reservations not required. Leader: Mike Bowen, 301-530-5764.

Wednesday, December 17

MEETING. **Montgomery.** "Tanzanian Treasures," by Bob Mumford. Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd., Potomac, 7 PM.

Saturday, December 20

★**Baltimore**. 8 AM to Noon. Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry. Cancelled if raining. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

Monday, December 22

MEETING. **Kent**. 7:30 PM, Kent County Library. Speaker: TBD. Info: 410-648-5205 or 410-778-9568.

Thursday, January 1

★**Howard**. Start your 2004 Bird List! Meet at Centennial Park boat ramp 8 AM for half to full day. Focus will be on Columbia Lakes with easy walking. If weather and birding cooperate, we will stop for lunch at a local restaurant and head to Triadelphia Reservoir. Facilities available. Call Bonnie for info at 410-461-3361.

★**Montgomery.** Earliest Bird: Georgetown Reservoir and DC Hotspots. Half day. Start the New Year right. Everyone welcome. Meet at 8 AM at Georgetown Reservoir, NW DC, by gate leading to the dike between the pools. Reservations not required. Leader: Mike Bowen, 301-530-5764.

Wednesday, January 7

★**Baltimore**. 9:30 AM–Noon. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. Our monthly visit to assist in survey of bird activity. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain, snow). Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

Thursday, January 8

MEETING. **Frederick**. Hank Kaestner will present "Around-the-World Birding Adventures in 2003." Places visited include China, Japan, Singapore, Australia, Madagascar, Finland, California, and Brazil. Meet at C. Burr Artz Library in downtown Frederick at 7 PM. Contact Marcia Balestri (301-473-5098, mebalestri@erols.com).

Saturday, January 10

MID-WINTER COUNT (Audrey Carroll). **Frederick**. Meet at the Sanctuary at 6 AM. Dress warmly, with waterproof boots. Call David Smith (410-549-7082) for further info.

PARTY. **Carroll**. Annual holiday party at Yingling residence. This is always a good time. 8 PM til ?? Contact Sue Yingling at 410-876-8211 to coordinate your pot luck dish.

Sunday, January 11

MID-WINTER COUNT (Fred Archibald). **Frederick**. Meet at the Sanctuary at 6 AM. Dress warmly, with waterproof boots. Contact Bob Schaefer (301-831-5660, rjs30@erols.com) for further information.

COVERED DISH SUPPER. **Baltimore**. 5 PM. Dining at 5, talk at 5:30: "Around-the-World Bird-Watching Adventures in 2003," Hank Kaestner. Call Shirley Geddes, 410-377-6583 after Jan 5 to confirm where the supper will be held; because of possible renovation, Cylburn might be closed.

★ **Tri-County**. Maryland and Delaware coasts for winter specialties and perhaps a few discoveries from Christmas bird counts. Leader Sam Dyke (410-742-5497). Meet Asbury Methodist Church (north parking lot), Salisbury, at 7:30 AM. Bring lunch / snack / drink.

Calling All Artists

MOS invites all its artists to enter the Annual Conference Pin Design Contest. The deadline is January 16, 2004. The basic rules are simple:

(1) Entrants must be a member of MOS;

(2) The design must contain a bird appropriate for the conference site (Chestertown, MD) and the phrases "MOS" and "2004."

On the back of each entry put your name, address, and chapter affiliation, and identify the species represented. The pin can be any shape. Send entries to John Malcolm, 10205 Kindly Court, Montgomery Village, MD 20886. For more tips about designing pins for the contest, see the MOS website (www.mdbirds.org/members/contest.html), or contact John Malcolm at smudgie@comcast.net or 301-977-5788.

JUNE BOARD MEETING

(continued from page 7)

posed new structure and present a revised version for approval at the September board meeting. Then the proposed changes to the Bylaws will need to be voted on by the full membership at the annual meeting. Changes to the Manual of Operations need to be made and voted on by the board. Until these changes are official, Paul will make some ad hoc appointments in the fall.

OLD BUSINESS

Listserver: Janet Millenson is looking into the idea of MOS having its own listserver. In July, she will attend a seminar sponsored by the Maryland Association of Non-profit Organizations (to which MOS belongs) to learn more about electronic communication options.

NEW BUSINESS

MOS Brochure: The redesigned MOS brochures are available for distribution to the chapters. The brochures have room to apply a sticker with a few lines of chapter-specific information (contact name, meeting time, etc.). Contact Janet Millenson at janet@twocrows.com to request brochures and/or sheets of custom stickers.

Fall Bird Count: Should the count be held on the usual Saturday (the first day of hunting season) or be changed to Sunday? The matter will be referred to the Seasonal Counts Committee chair and the Fall Count Coordinator, both of whom were out of town, and a decision will be made at the next board meeting.

NEW ACTION ITEMS

1. Need names of candidates to fill committee chairs and other openings. Additional positions will become available when the proposed new committee structure is put in place.
2. Committee chairs need to provide Paul Zucker with a two-paragraph summary of this past year's activities.
3. Interested chapters should provide Janet Millenson with their contact information (not more than four lines) and she will print and send stickers for them to put on the new MOS membership brochures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Changes to Threatened and Endangered Species List: Gwen Brewer informed us that the Department of Natural Resources has proposed some changes to the Threatened and Endangered Species List. These changes are open for comments until June 30.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

—Respectfully submitted by Janet Shields, Secretary

THE 104th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Birders of all levels are welcome to participate in the 2003–2004 seasonal Christmas Bird Counts! The data you collect on birds seen or heard in a count circle will be submitted to the National Audubon Society for nationwide publication ($5 donation per person requested to help defray costs). Enjoy winter birding and add your sightings to this vital scientific database. MOS chapters that sponsor a particular count are noted in bold type.

[?] indicates **date not certain** as this issue goes to press; please call to verify.

Saturday, December 13

TRIADELPHIA RESERVOIR. Compilers: Jay and Diane Jones, jayrjones@juno.com, 301-670-0516.

Sunday, December 14

CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN. **Frederick**. 55th year. Call Mike Welch (301-874-5828) to participate. Tally Rally at the Balestris'. Call Marcia Balestri (301-473-5098) for directions.

JUG BAY. Sam Droege, 301-390-7759.

KENT ISLAND. Call compiler Paul Toulson (410-778-4123) for area assignment. Full day.

PORT TOBACCO. Compiler: George B. Wilmot, gwilmot@radix.net, 301-375-8552.

ST. MICHAELS. **Talbot**. 7 AM. Compilers: Bill Novak (410-822-2432), Frank Lawlor (410-745-6039), Wayne Bell (410-820-6002, wayne.bell@washcoll.edu). Dinner at Christ Church St. Michaels. No breakfast.

Saturday, December 20

ALLEGANY COUNTY. Call J.B. Churchill at 301-697-1223 to get an area assignment. Tally will be at Frostburg United Methodist Church Social Hall, 48 W. Main Street, at 7 PM. Bring a covered dish to share.

DENTON. **Caroline**. Steve Westre, Coordinator (410-479-0338).

OAKLAND. Connie Skipper, 301-387-5227.

WASHINGTON, DC. Compiler: John Bjerke. New participants call the Audubon Naturalist Society, 301-652-9188.

Sunday, December 21

BOWIE. **Patuxent**. Contact Fred Fallon (fwfallon@mnsinc.com, 301-249-1518).

POINT LOOKOUT. Compiler: Bob Boxwell, 410-394-6135, bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

SALISBURY. **Tri-County**. Step back from the holiday rush and join this birding event. To participate, call Sam Dyke (410-742-5497).

SENECA. **Montgomery.** Compiler: Steve Pretl (202-726-5378, spretl@erols.com).

Saturday, December 27

BALTIMORE HARBOR. **Baltimore**. For area assignment call compiler: Pete Webb, 410-486-1217. Tally at Gene Scarpulla's house. Contact Gene (ejscarp@comcast.net or 410-388-0852 after 7 pm) for directions.

WASHINGTON COUNTY. David Weesner, 301-432-7718.

Sunday, December 28

CENTRAL LOUDOUN. Joe Coleman, 540-554-2542; jandkcoleman@erols.com. Maryland section includes Whites Ferry, C&O Canal west of McKee-Beshers.

[?] ELKTON. Gary Griffith, 410-392-4491.

[?] OCEAN CITY. Jay Sheppard, 301-725-5559, JMSheppar@aol.com.

Monday, December 29

ROCK RUN. Jean Wheeler, 410-879-7424.

[?] CRISFIELD. Allen Deward, 410-352-5590.

Tuesday, December 30

[?] SOUTHERN DORCHESTER COUNTY/ BLACKWATER. Chan Robbins, 301-725-1176 or chan_robbins@usgs.gov.

Sunday, January 4

ANNAPOLIS-GIBSON ISLAND. Compilers: Sue Ricciardi, susie@starpower.net, 410-647-9513 or Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson, hal.lynn@erols.com, 410-647-7439.

FORT BELVOIR. Carol Ghebelian, Maryland Coordinator, gheb@bellatlantic.net; 301-753-6754.

PATUXENT RIVER. Doug Lister, 301-994-2582 (H) or 301-342-3670 (O) and Andy Brown, brownaj@co.cal.md.us, 410-586-9490 (H) or 410-535-5327 (O).

SUGARLOAF. Compilers: Helen Horrocks (Frederick Co.), 301-831-6315; Janet Millenson (Montgy. Co.), 301-983-9337.

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